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Letter dated 13 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at the weekly meeting last weekend of the Executive Committee of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD-Goma), its spokesman, reacting to hundreds of small traders who have been demonstrating day and night since 4 July 2001 in front of its headquarters at Goma, outrageously described the structures of this so-called rebel movement as a "State".

This description is extremely serious, in that it indicates the now openly proclaimed desire of Rwanda and RCD-Goma to create a secessionist State in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, contrary to the will of the Congolese people which achieved national concord on 30 June 1960.

This hidden agenda of Rwanda and RCD-Goma was drawn up in violation of the founding principles of the charter of the Organization of African Unity regarding the inviolability of the borders that emerged from decolonization, and in violation also of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as of the relevant provisions of all the resolutions of the Security Council, which have all reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of all the States of the region.

My Government recalls that on 31 August 1998 it addressed to the Security Council a memorandum on the armed aggression by the Rwandan-Ugandan coalition against the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which it alerted the entire international community to the hegemonist and irredentist designs of Rwanda against the Democratic Republic of the Congo whereby the authorities currently in power in Rwanda see in a possible annexation of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo a means of relieving Rwanda of part of its population.

These expansionist designs are also accompanied by an objective of dividing Africa up again with a view to establishing micro-States for purposes, inter alia, of controlling important sources of raw materials.

My Government calls on the Security Council, as a matter of urgency, to address a strong, clear and unambiguous message to Rwanda and RCD-Goma to refrain from any action that could sanction the secession and the partition of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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Lastly, with respect to the claims brought against RCD-Goma by the hundreds of small traders, the vast majority of whom are from Kasai-Oriental province, my Government calls on the Security Council to invite Rwanda and RCD-Goma to conduct themselves more fittingly, to take a more appropriate attitude towards the Congolese population and to restore unconditionally all the goods confiscated at Goma airport.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative